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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,610	12/17/2001	Werner Stoeckl	GR99P2038P	2388

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EXAMINER	
HSU, ALPUS	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2665	

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/022,610	STOECKL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alpus H. Hsu	2665	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/01.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 2 and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 2 and 3 appear to be identical claims. One of the claims either needs to be canceled or amended to show further distinction. Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ALEXANDER, JR. et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,946,311 in view of CALLON in U.S. Patent No. 5,430,727.

Referring to claims 1, 4, 10 and 11, ALEXANDER, JR. et al. discloses a method for transmitting data from a first router device (110), connected to a communications network (400) through a network gateway unit (not shown), through the communications network to a second router device (406), which comprises: providing a hardware address according to a routing protocol used to identify a second router device located downstream with respect to a data path

leading to a transmission destination; allocating the hardware address to data to be transmitted with the first router device dependent upon the transmission destination of the data; transmitting the hardware address and the data from the first router device to the network gateway unit; checking, with the network gateway unit, whether or not the transmitted hardware address matches a hardware address stored in a memory of the network gateway unit and, in the event of a positive check result: allocating a network address to the data with the network gateway unit, the network address being allocated to the transmitted hardware address in the network gateway unit and identifying an exit point of the communications network; forwarding the network address and the data from the network gateway unit into the communications network after conversion according to a transmission protocol used in the communications network; and transmitting the data from the communications network to the exit point defined by the network address, the exit point being where the data is fed to the second router device (col. 9, line 51 to col. 10, line 8).

ALEXANDER, JR. et al. differs from the claim, in that, it does not disclose a physical implementation of network gateway between the router and the network, which is well known in the art and commonly applied in data communications field for protocol conversion purpose.

CALLON, for example, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches the physical implementation of network gateway (133) between the router (131) and the network (IP), which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art to implement into the method in ALEXANDER, JR. et al. to provide physical implementation of protocol conversion to meet the system specification and requirement.

Referring to claims 2 and 3, CALLON discloses a second network gateway unit (141) as an exit point to the communications network.

Referring to claim 5, ALEXANDER, JR. et al. discloses the further steps of: connecting a first local area network (420) to the first router device (404); connecting a second local area network (430) to second router device (406); and transmitting the data from the first local area network through the first router device to the second router device; and from the second router device into the second local area network (col. 9, line 51 to col. 10, line 8).

5. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ALEXANDER, JR. et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,946,311 in view of CALLON in U.S. Patent No. 5,430,727, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of MENDELSON et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,343,083.

Referring to claims 6-9, the method provided from the teaching of ALEXANDER, JR. et al. in view of CALLON fails to disclose the uses of allocation tables for storing and mapping among MAC addresses, IP addresses and network addresses, which is also well known in the art and commonly used in communications field for address storage and mapping purposes.

MENDELSON et al., for example, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches the uses of allocation tables for storing and mapping among MAC addresses, IP addresses and network addresses (col. 12, lines 26-67), which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art to implement into the method provided from the teaching of ALEXANDER, JR. et al. in view of CALLON to further provide the system with internet capability.

6. Claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ALEXANDER, JR. et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,946,311 in view of MENDELSON et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,343,083.

Referring to claims 12-16, ALEXANDER, JR. et al. discloses in a communications system having router devices, first of the router devices (404) being connected to a communications network (400) through a network gateway unit (not shown), the communications network utilizing a transmission protocol, the network gateway unit transmitting data from a first router device through the communications network to another one of the router devices (406).

ALEXANDER, JR. et al. differs from the claim, in that, it does not disclose a specific network gateway unit comprising: an allocation table for storing hardware addresses each respectively allocated to a network address and identifying an exit point of the communications network to a relevant one of the router devices, the first router device using the hardware addresses to identify another one of the router devices; an address-checking device determining if a hardware address arriving from the first router device matches one of the hardware addresses in said allocation table, said address-checking device connected to said allocation table; an address allocation device allocating data arriving from the first router device, the data being allocated to a respective one of the hardware addresses in said allocation table, said address allocation device connected to said allocation table; and a protocol conversion device converting and transmitting the data arriving from the first router device according to the transmission protocol, the network address allocated to the data being used as address information, said protocol conversion device connected to said address-checking device and to said address

allocation device, and the uses of allocation tables for storing and mapping among MAC addresses, IP addresses and network addresses, which are well known in the art and commonly used in communications field for address storage, address mapping, and protocol conversion purposes.

MENDELSON et al., for example, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches a specific network gateway unit (250) and the uses of allocation tables for storing and mapping among MAC addresses, IP addresses and network addresses (col. 12, lines 26-67), which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art to implement into the method provided from the teaching of ALEXANDER, JR. et al. to further provide the system with internet capability.

Referring to claim 17, ALEXANDER, JR. et al. discloses the communications network is an asynchronous transfer mode network (400).

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sistanizadeh et al. '548 & '182, Kawafuji et al., Engel et al., Civanlar et al., Millet et al., Alexander, Jr. Et al. '158, and Karol et al. are all cited to show the common feature of data communication between terminals located in different LANs utilizing routers and gateways similar to the claimed invention.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alpus H. Hsu whose telephone number is (571)272-3146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy D. Vu can be reached on (571)272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AHH

Alpus H. Hsu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2665